



Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

NEWS SOURCE

Special COVID-19 Edition

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT & CEO MEAGAN GALLAGHER

Dear Friends,

I am hopeful this finds you and your loved ones healthy and well. While this pandemic is disrupting every aspect of our society, including health care, together with you, we are united in our efforts to reduce the spread and impact of this virus. And we are committed to meeting the sexual and reproductive health care needs of our patients, and of our communities.

Inside this special edition of *News Source*, you'll see how in this new reality we've quickly adapted our health services, our education programs, and our crucial public affairs work.

We know COVID-19 is affecting us all in different ways, but we also know some are impacted more than others. I recently heard from one of our staff that every patient they'd seen at the health center that day had been either laid off or furloughed and were facing numerous challenges. **But our staff made sure that receiving healthcare wasn't one of them.**

These are unprecedented times, and the financial impact to our organization is significant. But we have never wavered from our commitment to provide care regardless of ability to pay. **Today, we are asking for you to stand with us and make a gift to support this crucial work.** What you'll see in this newsletter is our resiliency - and as a PPNNE supporter, I hope you feel pride in what you help make possible.

Enabling people's freedom to live the life that they choose is the work that PPNNE does every day. In this moment, we embrace the values that have strengthened this organization for more than 55 years - we return to our mission, we tend to our staff, we respect and honor all people - and we are in this together, with you.

On behalf of everyone here at PPNNE and our patients, thank you so much for standing with us. I'm wishing you good health and all the best as we go through these trying times.

Stronger together,

Meagan



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Care. No Matter What.

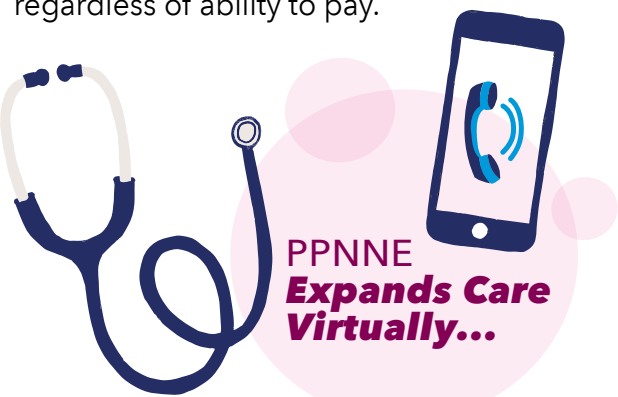
OUR COMMITMENT TO PATIENTS

Especially in uncertain times like these, we know that people's sexual and reproductive health care can't wait. We continue to meet the needs of our patients each day, providing them essential care regardless of their ability to pay.

"Everything was excellent. I appreciate being able to come in during the craziness of COVID-19 when I was unable to go to my regular OB/GYN Thank you!" - PPNNE Patient

HOW WE ARE DELIVERING CARE SAFELY

The safety of our staff, patients, and communities is our top priority. As such, **more than 60% of our appointments are now being provided through telehealth** – over the phone or over a secure video conference. We also continue to offer in-person and curbside visits when necessary. We are providing STD screening and treatment, birth control, abortion care, social work interventions, and more.



...now offering **telehealth** services.

PPNNE
**Expands Care
Virtually...**

A WORD FROM OUR HEALTH CENTER STAFF

Here are just some of the ways our health center staff have provided care during this pandemic - **and what your support helps make possible.**

“It can be difficult for patients in rural areas to access health care due to transportation scarcity. Telehealth was able to overcome this obstacle for a patient I saw last week. She works at a dairy farm, and developed a Urinary Tract Infection. Our visit was conducted while she was in the dairy barn, with cows mooing in the background. She was very appreciative of the visit and was laughing while thanking us at the end of the call.”

“A woman called very concerned over light bleeding in early pregnancy. She was established with an OB/GYN and was planning to continue the pregnancy but had been told she could not be seen for an ultrasound due to the pandemic. She was able to come to PPNNE and we confirmed that all was well and sent the records to her OB/GYN provider with a follow up plan. PPNNE met the immediate needs of the patient and alleviated strain on the hospital system.”

Updates From Our Public Affairs Teams

Advocacy is central to our mission and our work. PPNNE's public affairs teams are getting creative in engaging activists while we shelter in place. Because we know advocacy for sexual and reproductive health care needs cannot stop, **we remain committed to ongoing policy work with our respective legislatures and in the community.** Our partnerships with other social justice organizations continue as we collectively look toward the 2020 elections. We are seeing a surge of volunteer interest in engaging at this time.

VERMONT

We are cultivating the VT Speakers Bureau by recruiting members and holding monthly virtual storyteller and issue workshops with a focus on passing Prop 5, the constitutional amendment to guarantee reproductive liberty in the state.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Organizers are holding weekly virtual volunteer nights that combine education on the issues and fun! This month, volunteers had opportunities to participate in our new book club and an online sex trivia night.

MAINE

PPNNE's groundbreaking Bridging the Gap program helps to reduce abortion stigma by engaging Mainers at their doors with in-depth conversations about the issue. These days, new volunteers have begun weekly online trainings and both trainees and experienced volunteers are discussing how they can use their deep canvassing skills on social media platforms or over the phone to continue talking about abortion stigma, Planned Parenthood, and the importance of sexual and reproductive health care - even during this pandemic.



Education In The Time Of COVID-19

PPNNE's Education team continues to work across our region in a variety of ways during this pandemic. Our Peer Education trainings and planning have moved to online learning platforms and we're **providing support to teachers** as education professionals navigate teaching sex education online. In the words of one teacher:

"THANK YOU for this! I am guessing that most teachers are in crisis / survival mode - I know my colleagues and I certainly are! These resources are a great help - thank you so much!"



FOR PARENTS

With the kids at home, you may be looking for opportunities to talk with them about sex, puberty, bodies, and relationships. For resources on how to talk to kids of all ages about these topics, explore **[plannedparenthood.org/parents](https://www.plannedparenthood.org/parents)**.

Your support is critical at this time.

Here are 4 ways you can stand with us...

1. Make an appointment.

Stay healthy and don't put your sexual and reproductive health needs on hold. Book online at www.ppnne.org or call 1-866-476-1321, Monday through Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm.

2. Support our work.

This crisis is having a significant financial impact on our organization. **If you are able, please make a donation today in one of the following ways:**

- Use the enclosed envelope to mail a one-time gift or sign up to be a monthly Sustainer.
- Visit www.ppnne.org/annualfund to make your gift online.
- Make a gift of stock - contact Jennifer Long, Director of Development Operations, at jennifer.long@ppnne.org.
- Make a gift through your Donor Advised Fund (DAF). PPNNE's EIN # is 03-0222941.
- Make a gift from your IRA if you are over the age of 70 ½.

For any questions about donating to PPNNE, don't hesitate to be in touch with us at supportus@ppnne.org.

3. Join your local action team.

Our public affairs teams in each state are continuing their vital work online.

Email the organizer in your state to get involved.

Maine: grassrootsme@ppnne.org

New Hampshire: grassrootsnh@ppnne.org

Vermont: grassrootsvt@ppnne.org

4. Volunteer with us.

You can still help from the safety of your home! **We are looking for volunteers to make and donate non-PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) cloth face masks.**

For security reasons we ask that you not bring these directly to the health centers. Email volunteer@ppnne.org for guidelines and to learn more.



Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
Serving Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont

784 Hercules Dr, Suite 110
Colchester, VT 05446

supportus@ppnne.org
1-800-287-8188 ext 9704

